



We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people.

We support each other to grow in faith
and create a loving and compassionate community.

We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

We are committed to
being a Child-Safe
Community

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

15 - 12 - 24

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD (ROSE-COLOURED) CANDLE



Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. We ask you to send your blessings on this community who gather around this wreath, which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, your daily coming amongst us in grace and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as Universal King for ever and ever.

The third (rose-coloured) candle is lit.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows his flock & calls each by name.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out and look for the lost sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: During the Advent season may almighty God lead us to worship his Son and fill our hearts with joy at the coming of Jesus and lead us to life everlasting. All: Amen.

Please join in singing the remaining verse of the hymn on page 4.



It is a long tradition of the Church to hold a Jubilee Year every twenty-five years (the last one was the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, celebrating the second millennium of the Incarnation). A tradition drawn from the Old Testament, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Jesus announced his own mission in the synagogue at Nazareth as he quoted the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.... to proclaim **a year acceptable to the Lord**," (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

We have now set up a special section of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) which can be accessed via one of the hotlink boxes on the homepage. It provides some introductory insight into the Jubilee and how it can be part of our lives and discipleship. The page will continue to evolve. Please visit it often.



Last Saturday afternoon our RCIA catechumens and team members gathered for their last meeting before the new year. Please keep those preparing to join our family of faith through baptism in your prayers.



As we gather in worship on this day we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which our parish is found.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Children's Vigil Masses:

Tuesday 24th December

5:30pm at Killara

6:00pm at Lindfield

Mass of Christmas Night

Tuesday 24th December

10:30pm at Lindfield

preceded by a Service of
Carols at 10:00pm

Christmas morning

Wednesday 25th December

8:00am at Lindfield

9:30am at Killara

10:15am at Lindfield

(no evening Mass on 25th
December)



Advent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

As the first season of the liturgical year Advent brings with it the invitation to renewal of heart, to 'prepare the way of the Lord'.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful and gentle way of entering into that movement of the heart.

The sacrament is celebrated on the Saturdays of Advent (see page 6 for times) and there will be a celebration of the Second (community) Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 18th December at 7:00pm in Holy Family church.

Please note though that there will be no celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation following the final Saturday before Christmas.



Flowers for our two churches for Christmas

We want to make our two churches beautiful for the celebration of the Lord's birth but the cost of the flower arrangements isn't small!

If you would be able to contribute towards the cost of the flowers for Christmas either:

- contact the Parish Office
- transfer the funds to our Lindfield-Killara Church Account (BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623), and put as the reference 'Christmas Flowers'.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD: POPE FRANCIS CREATES NEW CARDINALS



On Saturday 7th December Pope Francis held a Consistory in which he created 21 new cardinals from around the world.

Amongst the new cardinals is one from AUSTRALIA! Our congratulations and prayers go with Cardinal Mykola Bychok, who is the Ukrainian Rite Bishop of Australia based in Melbourne.

THE SACRAMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN IN 2025



The dates and details for the for the preparation and celebration of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025 are now available on our parish website:

(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) at:

Sacraments → Children's Sacraments

(Please note that we now have the finalised date for Confirmation and it is available at the above location).

Food³ for the spirit

A REFLECTION FOR THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT . . .

Well, the thing which certainly dominates this day of Advent is the colour, particularly because it's a colour which only appears twice a year: on this day, and on the fourth Sunday of Lent. We make strong use of colour in our liturgy in our Catholic tradition. Over the next two weeks alone we'll move through three colours: the rose of today, the purple of the remainder of Advent, and the white and gold of Christmas. Colour is part of our liturgy: it has its own message to convey, a wordless message, but a rich message.

But beside the individual message and symbolism of each colour we use to speak to us in our liturgy there's an overarching message just in the fact that we use colour at all: in our language colour speaks of variety and diversity - we speak about rich and diverse experiences as 'adding colour to our lives'. When someone or something comes across as bland, flat and featureless one of the terms we use is colourless. And the opposite of colour is monochrome a word which has connotations of an image which lacks the diversity and richness to convey the real depth of the original image. The word 'monochrome' can even be used of a speech when it's over-simplistic and superficial and doesn't explore the complexity and depth of an issue.

Indeed, another word associated with 'colour' is shade: colour is so open to variation that we even have to subdivide our colours into the myriad of shades between each of them. And again that comes into our language: there are shades of colour, and there are shades of meaning. So colour speaks of diversity, it speaks of richness and depth, it speaks of something which has shades: nuances. It's the opposite of black and white,

And so, this tradition of using colour in our liturgy reflects a wisdom, and intuition in our Church that we need to bring colour, not just blacks and whites, to our experience of faith, to our being a Church, to our living out of Christian faith. It reminds us that living as a human being is not only about blacks and whites: that there's a complexity, a 'complicatedness' to who we are as human beings that can't be reduced to a few words, or to simplistic judgements. And that, of course, that if we ourselves are such a mystery, then we certainly can't do justice to the infinite mystery who is God by colourless simplifications.

Our tradition of colour can remind us that each human being, each human life, each human situation, can't always be dealt with a monochrome oversimplification, that the duty of a Christian is to recognise the colour, the shades, the complexity of each human being, each human life, and each human situation.

So, this day of Advent which so vividly reminds us of our Church's tradition of using colour and its many shades to speak us in our liturgy, can be a day, in this season of renewal, to ask ourselves whether we recognise the colour and complexity in life, in ourselves, and in our neighbour.

It can be a day to ask ourselves whether our response to life, and the people in it, is the response of a vision which is black and white in other words, the response of judgement and condemnation. Or whether our response is the response which does justice to the colour and the shades and the complexity which human life really involves: in other words, the response of compassion.

Fr Colin

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES



are available on the pews in both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and

upkeep of the priests of our parish and diocese. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings. The envelopes can be placed on the collection plates along with the normal collections over the next few weeks.

LINDFIELD CHURCH—AUDIO AND VISUAL SYSTEM

Many thanks to all those generous people who have contributed towards this cause. The great news is that we now have sufficient funds and the work will be done as soon possible. Many many thanks.

Fr Colin



ARE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?



RCIA
A Journey In Faith

Our RCIA ministry is our way of preparing people for the sacraments of new birth and membership of the Christian community.

The RCIA process starts around the middle of the year and leads to the following Easter. However if someone is seeking Christian faith but actually has no previous background to it we have a separate and earlier process to help them be ready for RCIA itself - this preparatory process starts around February.

In either case we'd love to hear from you NOW so that we can arrange for the best possible process to prepare you for your welcome into the Church.

Please contact Jos Beunen at jos.beunen@gmail.com or on 0427 993982 .

Hymns for the Third⁴ Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make sure the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

The third (rose-coloured) candle is lit.

O come, O day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and deaths dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

From the Great O Antiphons, c. 12th cent.

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: WITH A JOYFUL HEART

Ref.: With a joyful heart, O Lord my God, I bring all to you

Behold, O Lord, this bread
which we now carry to your altar.
This bread will become your body. *Refrain*

Behold, O Lord, this wine;
accept and bless it for our gladness.
This wine will be come your blood. *Refrain*

We come to you, O Lord;
we bring the gifts that you have made,
the gifts we return to you. *Refrain*

*Lucien Deiss ©1970, World Library Publications**

COMMUNION: I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one,
lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,

so weary, worn, and sad.
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am the dawning light.
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1846)

RECESSIONAL: CITY OF GOD

Awake from your slumber
Arise from your sleep
A new day is dawning
For all those who weep
The people in darkness have seen a great light
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night

Refrain: Let us build the city of God
May our tears be turned into dancing
For the Lord our light and our love
Has turned the night into day

We are sons of the morning we are daughters of day
The One who has loved us has brightened our way
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. *Refrain*

*Dan Schutte ©1981, OCP.**

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St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



St Vincent de Paul
Helps People

As the feast of the Lord's birth approaches Advent invites us in a special way to look to our care for those in need. Please support the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Envelopes are available in the church foyers.

OR you can contribute by scanning
this QR code:



INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

IN BROKEN BAY

Bishop Anthony invites everyone in our
Diocese of Broken Bay to join him on the
Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday 29
December, for 9.30am Mass at Our Lady
of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara to
officially mark the beginning of the
2025 Holy Jubilee.



*We abstain from the joyful words of
the Gloria
during these days of Advent
as we prepare our hearts
and our community
to celebrate once again the birth of the
Lord Jesus*

THE PSALM Ps Is 12:2-6

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
the Lord became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to God's name!
Make God's mighty deeds known to the peoples! De-
clare the greatness of God's name.
Sing a psalm to the Lord
for God has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy f
or great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

CAN YOU PLAY KEYBOARD/PIANO?

You wouldn't have to do it all the time!

Our wonderful combo for the 6pm Youth Mass on
Sundays needs an occasional helper on the keyboard—
no more than once a month, if that. If you could help
in this way please contact Fr Colin (0475 558500;
colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au).

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow at the following words in bold):
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Isaiah 61:1 [Lk 4:18])

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me
to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your
Death, O Lord, until you come again.

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION: THE UNIVERSE STORY IS SPIRITUAL

*Philosopher Brian Swimme and historian Mary Evelyn
Tucker reflect on the story of the universe:*

We are the first generation to learn the comprehensive
scientific dimensions of the universe story. We know that
the observable universe emerged 13.7 billion years ago,
and we now live on a planet orbiting our Sun, one of the
trillions of stars in one of the billions of galaxies in an
unfolding universe that is profoundly creative and
interconnected. With our empirical observations
expanded by modern science, we are now realizing that
our universe is a single immense energy event that began
as a tiny speck that has unfolded over time to become
galaxies and stars, palms and pelicans, the music of Bach,
and each of us alive today. The great discovery of
contemporary science is that the universe is not simply a
place, but a story—a story in which we are immersed, to
which we belong, and out of which we arose.

This story has the power to awaken us more deeply to
who we are. For just as the Milky Way is the universe in
the form of a galaxy, and an orchid is the universe in the
form of a flower, we are the universe in the form of a
human. And every time we are drawn to look up into the
night sky and reflect on the awesome beauty of the
universe, we are actually the universe reflecting on itself.
And this changes everything. [1]

*Author John Philip Newell honours the work of scientist
and Catholic priest Thomas Berry (1914–2009) who
witnessed God throughout the cosmos:*

Berry wanted us to be amazed, constantly amazed, by

this one, single, interrelated body of the universe that
new science describes as a single multiform reality, or as
“Undivided Wholeness in Flowing Movement.” [2] It just
keeps flowing and flowing into ever-new form. Four and
a half billion years ago it flowed into the form of a planet
of burning molten rock. And over the course of four
billion years this globe of burning rock, Earth as it was
later called, has transformed itself into birds and bees
and butterflies, and into the emergence of human
thought and music and love. We are each a shining flow
of sacred energy.

Homo sapiens, meaning wise ones, appeared 200,000
years ago. We are latecomers in this story. The term
“wise ones” does not accurately describe what we have
been to one another and to Earth, but it could yet
describe what we will become. As Berry adds, there is
good reason to hope that “the universe is for us rather
than against us.” [3] Given the dangerous moments that
have been navigated thus far in the unfolding story of
humanity and Earth, there is good reason to hope. It is
now up to us to live from the wisdom of the Spirit that is
deep within us. [4]

[1] Brian Thomas Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Journey of the Universe* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2011), 1–2.

[2] David Bohm, *Wholeness and the Implicate Order* (New York: Routledge Classics, 2002, 1980), 14.

[3] Thomas Berry, *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future* (New York: Bell Tower, 1999), 201.

[4] John Philip Newell, *The Great Search: Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home* (New York: HarperOne, 2024), 26.

SUNDAY MASS

Killara Church :

5:30pm Vigil 9:00am

Lindfield Church

6:00pm Vigil 8:30 am 10:15am **

12 noon Chinese Mass 6:00pm Youth Mass*

* On the 3rd Sunday of the month except January the 6pm Youth Mass is followed by a Parish Pot Luck Dinner in St Brigid's Hall.

** The 10:15am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays is a Children's Mass, featuring our Children's Choir (followed by morning tea).

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Mon: 8am Killara

Tues. **NO Mass**

Wed. 10am Lindfield

Thur.: 10am Lindfield

Fri.: 10am Lindfield

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays for 15 mins after Vigil Mass at Killara

Saturdays 5.15 - 5.45pm at Lindfield

THE ORDINARIATE OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

(GATHERING IN OUR CHURCH AT KILLARA):

Mass: Sunday 12 noon

PLEASE NOTE: due to Fr Stephen's annual leave there will be no Ordinatee weekday Masses until 26th December.

Parish weekday Masses are as above.

SUNDAY MASS ROSTER

Saturday		14 Dec.	21 Dec.
Lindfield	6:00 pm	Fr Ansalem Lakra	Fr Colin
Killara	5:30 pm	Fr Colin	Fr Joey
Sunday		15 Dec.	22 Dec.
Lindfield	8:30 am	Fr David Strong	Fr Colin
Killara	9:00 am	Fr Colin	Fr David Strong
Lindfield	10:15 am	Fr Ansalem Lakra	Fr Colin
Lindfield	12:00 pm	Fr Ansalem Lakra	Fr David Ranson
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin	Fr Colin

HOW TO CONTACT US

Fr Colin Blayney, Parish Priest

colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au 0475 558 500

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri. ~ 9.30am - 4pm

Postal address: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070

P: 9416 3702 E: parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Fr Stephen Hill, Priest-in-residence E. fr.stephen@me.com

P. 0474 303 261 (VOICE only—no SMS)

For all of our staff click on 'Our Parish' on the website.

Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield

E info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au Ph.7256 2141

Ways that you can support our parish

◆ DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS from your bank a/c:

1st Collection: (providing for the priests of the parish & retired & sick clergy of the diocese):

BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624

2nd Collection: (providing for all the operating costs of the parish):

BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623

CREDIT CARD: scan this code & then

select each of our two collections:

◆ PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR

CREDIT CARD: just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances' on our homepage

(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) or email accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au for assistance.

◆ The **TAP MACHINES** are available in our two churches.**PARISH DIARY**

Every Wednesday: 8:00am Meditation (online)

DECEMBER

Sun. 15th 7:00pm Pot luck dinner after 6pm

Mass.

Wed. 18th 10:00am Advent end of year Mass for our school

Fri. 20th 7:00pm 11:00am Second Rite of Reconciliation Parish Seniors' Social Group

During January most of our regular activities take a break.

OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

將臨期第三主日 15.12.2024

讀經一

(上主要因你而歡躍喜樂。)

恭讀索福尼亞先知書 23:1-6

熙雍女子，你應歡樂！以色列，你應歡呼！耶路撒冷女子，你應滿心高興喜樂！上主已撤銷了對你的定案，掃除了你的仇敵。以色列的君王——上主，在你中間，你不再會遇見災禍！

在那一天，人必對耶路撒冷說：「熙雍，你不用害怕，不要雙手低垂！上主你的天主，在你中間；他是一位施救的勇士。他必為你喜不自勝；對你重溫他的愛情；且因你而歡躍喜樂，有如在慶節之日。」

我必滅除打擊你的人，使你不再受羞辱。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 依 12:2-6

【答】：你們應歡呼高唱，因為以色列的聖者，在你們中間，是偉大的。(依 12:6)

領：天主是我的救援；我依靠他，決不畏懼，因為上主是我的力量，是我的歌頌；他確是我的救援。你們要愉快地從救援的泉源裡汲水。【答】

領：你們應稱頌上主，呼號他的名！將他的作為宣告於萬民，稱述他崇高的名字【答】

領：請歌頌上主，因為他行了顯赫的事；這事應該遍傳天下。熙雍的居民，你們應歡呼高唱，因為以色列的聖者，在你們中間，是偉大的。【答】

讀經二 (主快來了！)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致斐理伯人書 4:4-7

姊妹弟兄們：

你們在主內應當常常喜樂；我再說：你們應當喜樂！你們的寬仁，應當叫眾人知道：主快來了。

你們什麼也不要掛慮，只在一切事上，以懇求和祈禱，懷著感謝之心，向天主呈上你們的請求；這樣，天主那超乎各種思想的平安，必要在基督耶穌內，固守你們的心思念慮。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼 (依 61:1)

領：亞肋路亞。

【眾】：亞肋路亞。

領：上主的神臨於我身上，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊。

【眾】：亞肋路亞。

福音

(我們該做什麼呢?)

恭讀聖路加福音 3:10-18

那時候，群眾問若翰說：「那麼，我們該做什麼呢？」若翰答覆他們說：「有兩件內衣的，要分給那沒有的；有食物的，也應照樣做。」稅吏也來受洗，並問若翰說：「師父，我們該做什麼呢？」若翰向他們說：「除了規定給你們的，不要多收！」軍人也問若翰說：「我們該做什麼呢？」若翰向他們說：「不要勒索人，也不要敲詐；對你們的糧餉，應當知足！」那時，百姓都在期待【默西亞】，為此，人人心中推想：或許若翰就是默西亞。

若翰便向眾人說：「我固然以水洗你們，但是，比我強的那一位，要來；就是解他的鞋帶，我也不配。他要以聖神和火洗你們。木櫃已放在他手中，他要揚淨自己的禾場，把麥粒收在倉內；至於糠秕，卻要用不滅的火燒掉。」

若翰還講了許多其他勸言，給百姓傳報喜訊。

——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

華人天主教會北區中心

主日彌撒 正午 12 時

彌撒後，請各教友參加午餐聚會

主日學 正午 12 時，請聯絡北區中心

主牧職修文 司徒金美修文

0419 426 899

北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung

0416 118 089

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of everlasting life. Grant that life to:

Recently deceased: June Mercer, Owen McCormack, Mohtaram Lahooti, David Handley. Anniversary: Henry Yee Joy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Bev Gledhill, Diane McGirr, Mary Moran, Peter Tsang, Wolfgang Liers, Tanya Walsh, Jutta Mathur, Jessica Keen, Therese Playoust, Ali Crawford, Morna Sutherland, Barbara McMullen, Cyril Ferriere, William Wise, Rosanna Comastri, Janette Brennan.

A Service of Prayer to pray at home during Advent. . .

Blessing of the Christmas Crib in your home



The Christmas Crib or manger scene helps us to focus our celebration of the Word made flesh. You might like to pray this prayer at home before your Christmas crib.

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas manger scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi as a means to set forth the message of Christmas.

When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh. So let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas manger and upon ourselves, that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share in the salvation he accomplished.

1. For the Church of God, as we recall the birth of Jesus, that we may always proclaim his gift of new life for all people. **R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.**
2. For the world in which we live, that it may come to recognise Christ just as he was recognised and welcomed by the angels and the shepherds. **R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.**
3. For our homes, that Jesus who was laid in the manger may dwell with us always. **R.**

Prayer of blessing

*God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.*

*Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen*

ADVENT AND HOPE

There are two days in the Season of Advent that mark a turning point:

* The liturgical colour for today, Gaudete Sunday, is rose, symbolising that the light of what we're waiting and preparing for is breaking through the darkness of our searching and waiting: it's as though the light of Christmas shines through the purple of our waiting, the purple of our searching, the purple of Advent - lightening it to a rose colour. Today is a day of hope, reminding us that the God who was made flesh is present with us even in our searching and longing and waiting, even in the dark moments of our life.

* The 17th of December is a liturgical turning point in the Season of Advent. Until then Advent is focussed on the theme of preparing for the coming of the Lord, in each present moment, at the hour of our own death, and at the end of time. But from the 17th Advent focuses specifically on preparing our spirit to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We move from the first to the second Preface of Advent in our Eucharistic Prayer as it prays 'that when he comes he may find us watching...our hearts filled with wonder and praise.'



A THOUGHT ON THE MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT.....

One of the most beautiful things in the treasury of our Church is the tradition of the Mass of Christmas Night - celebrated either at Midnight itself or late in the evening on Christmas Eve.

'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.' Advent reminds us of something that's true of all life - that we search for God sometimes in darkness, sometimes full of our uncertainties. We discover God in that darkness - we glimpse those moments of light & peace which enable us to continue on the journey.

The timing of the Mass of Christmas Night is beautiful. Our gift to God is to stay awake on this great feast till those still night hours, that time of deep darkness which symbolises the darkness in which we wait for God to enter our lives. And then the celebration of the light of God's coming is even more symbolic: light and joy break into the stillness and darkness of that night hour. It's a beautiful way to keep vigil and to usher in the celebration of the birth that changes the world. We do it at a time free from all the frantic preparations of Christmas Eve and before the busyness of Christmas Day itself.

Please try to come along to the beautiful celebration of the Mass of Christmas Night this Christmas - at 10:30pm in Lindfield church on Christmas Eve (preceded by a Service of Carols from 10:00pm). Mass will be concluded by 11:30pm and you can be tucked up in bed before midnight! *Fr Colin*

We had an amazing year at COG with many fun games and activities! Plus fun times with Bingo and Christmas Cookie making!



Last weekend we had our last COG activity for the year and afterwards, a special visit from Santa who told us all about the special time of Advent and waiting for Jesus to come.



Happy Christmas to all of our youth & See you all next year!



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CHILDREN & YOUTH PERMISSION FORM FOR PARTICIPATION

If you haven't completed the form for your child(ren) already, please scan the QR code to sign-up, or enter below link on your browser thank you:

<https://lindfieldkillara.chmeetings.com/forms/CBF1EE1F12CD9BDD>

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COG FEEDBACK



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MONTHLY POTLUCK
pre-Christmas **DINNER**
Is happening THIS WEEKEND!

This Sunday after the 6pm Youth Mass, we would love to invite you upstairs in St Brigid's Hall's for our last potluck of the year where we will celebrate the joy of Christmas!